

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice. Independent claims 10, 14 and 23 are amended. Claims 2-6, 11-13, 15, 17 and 19 are amended to correct claim dependencies due to the cancellation of claim 1.

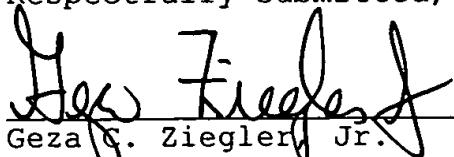
2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the objected to claims. Claims 10 and 23 are amended accordingly. Claim 14 is amended to include what the Examiner has indicated are the allowable features of claim 10. Thus, claim 14 should now also be allowable.

All of the claims of the application should now be allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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1 July 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below.

Date: July 1, 2004

Signature: Laura Perreux